

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04546 031413Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 NIC-01 IO-10 /083 W

----- 088466

R 031313Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASDC 8860

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4546

E.O. 11652: SGDS - DECLASS APR 1976

TAGS: PFOR, UR, VN, VS, CB

SUBJECT: SOVIETS ON INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY. IN A CONVERSATION WITH A DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE, YURI KUZENTSOV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE SOVIET MFA'S SOUTHEAST ASIAN DIVISION, PLAYED DOWN HANOI'S OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH VIETNAM BY ATTRIBUTING "LIBERATION" SUCCESSES TO THE COLLAPSE OF SAIGON'S FORCES. KUZNETSOV CONCEDED (WHICH SOVIET MEDIA HAVE NOT) THAT THERE IS A REFUGEE PROBLEM. HE REPORTEDLY ADVOCATED A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT (WITHOUT THIEU, OF COURSE) AND SAID MOSCOW WOULD WELCOME ANY U.S. INITIATIVES. HE ALSO NOTED THE NEED FOR POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION IN CAMBODIA AND DISMISSED SIHANOUK'S IMPORTANCE THERE. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 04546 031413Z

2. ITALIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR ROMANO CALLED ON EMBOFF ON

APRIL 2 TO DISCUSS SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD THE CHANGING SITUATION IN INDOCHINA FOLLOWING HIS CALL ON KUZNETSOV. ACCORDING TO ROMANO, KUZNETSOV GAVE TWO REASONS FOR THE RECENT UNEXPECTED ADVANCES OF THE "LIBERATION" FORCES IN VIETNAM: FIRST, THAT THEY WERE RESPONDING SUCCESSFULLY TO SAIGON'S CONSISTENT VIOLATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT; AND SECOND, THAT THE ARVN WAS COLLAPSING AND THE "LIBERATION" FORCES WERE IN EFFECT SIMPLY FILLING THE VACUUM. KUZNETSOV NOTED THAT "NOT EVEN THE WESTERN PRESS" HAD MENTIONED MAJOR BATTLES IN THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS BUT HAD HIGHLIGHTED THE CHAOS AND DISARRAY ON THE SAIGON SIDE.

3. TO ROMANO'S QUESTION ABOUT THE LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES, KUZNETSOV REPORTEDLY ADMITTED THAT SOME PEOPLE APPARENTLY DO NOT WISH TO LIVE IN THE "LIBERATED" AREAS. HE MENTIONED PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THE SAIGON TROOPS "FORCING" PEOPLE TO LEAVE, BUT AGREED WITH ROMANO'S ASSERTION THAT SUCH A VIEW DOES NOT TRACK WITH THE PICTURE OF TROOPS FLEEING IN DISARRAY. KUZNETSOV ALSO RATIONALIZED THE REFUGEE FLOW AS PEOPLE FLEEING COMBAT AREAS, AND HE SAID THAT THE PRG HAD ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT ONE MILLION PEOPLE HAD LEFT THE REGION RECENTLY TAKEN OVER. KUZNETSOV DID NOT BRING UP THE POINT IN SOVIET/DRV PROPAGANDA ABOUT THE ALLEGED "WELCOME" WHICH THE PEOPLE OF THESE AREAS WERE SHOWERING ON THEIR "LIBERATORS."

4. KUZNETSOV REPORTEDLY STRESSED THAT MOSCOW STILL FAVORED A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OVER CONTINUED MILITARY ACTIVITIES, AND FELT THAT NOW MORE THAN BEFORE THERE WAS A CHANCE TO GET SOMETHING STARTED. THIEU WAS AN OBSTACLE, HE SAID, BUT EVEN THE NON-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION TO THIEU WAS GROWING. HE REFERRED TO THE PRG STATEMENT OF LAST OCTOBER ON THE CONDITIONS FOR A SETTLEMENT, INCLUDING THIEU'S REMOVAL, AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS. ROMANO ASKED ABOUT REPORTS OF A U.S. INITIATIVE FOR A SETTLEMENT, TO WHICH KUZNETSOV REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH MOVE BUT THAT MOSCOW WOULD WELCOME ONE. ROMANO NOTED THAT KUZNETSOV MADE NO NEGATIVE COMMENTS ON THE U.S. ROLE IN VIETNAM OR CAMBODIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 04546 031413Z

5. ON CAMBODIA, KUZNETSOV REPORTEDLY SAID THAT MOSCOW STILL PREFERS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. EVEN IF PHNOM PENH FALLS, HE SAID, THE VICTORS WILL STILL HAVE TO REACH SOME SORT OF ACCOMMODATION WITH THOSE WHO SUPPORTED LON NOL. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE "SEVEN TRAITORS" PREVIOUSLY NAMED BY SIHANOUK HAD ALL LEFT THE COUNTRY NOW. WHEN ROMANO NOTED THAT SIHANOUK HAD JUST PUT OUT

A NEW AND LONGER LIST, KUZNETSOV DISMISSED THE PRINCE'S TACTICS SCORNFULLY, SAYING THAT SIHANOUK WAS UNPREDICTABLE, UNRELIABLE AND OVERLY EMOTIONAL. "IF YOU BASE YOUR JUDGMENTS ON WHAT HE SAYS," ROMANO QUOTED KUZNETSOV AS SAYING, "YOU WILL BE MISLED." HIS SOLE FUNCTION IN A SUCCESSOR REGIME, KUZNETSOV WENT ON, WOULD BE TO SERVE AS A RALLYING POINT WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND AS A FIGUREHEAD ABROAD. THE PRINCE, HE SAID, IS BETTER KNOWN THAN THE OTHER LEADERS, SO HE WILL HAVE A USEFUL BUT LIMITED ROLE TO PLAY.

6. CONCERNING THE SOVIET MOVE TO CLOSE THE GKR EMBASSY, KUZNETSOV REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN ARRANGED "BY MUTUAL CONSENT." HE POINTED OUT TO ROMANO THAT THE GKR DIPLOMATS WERE NOT BEING "EXPELLED."

7. SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA TRACKS WITH KUZNETSOV'S LINE, BUT WITH A STRONGER EFFORT TO ABSOLVE HANOI OF ANY BLAME AND WITH MORE NEGATIVE COMMENT ABOUT THE U.S. ROLE. ON VIETNAM, AN IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY (APRIL 1) BY BASILYEV SPOKE OF THE ADVANCES OF THE LIBERATION FORCES IN THE WAKE OF PANIC AND CHAOS BY THE SAIGON FORCES, ALLEGED SAIGON AND U.S. VIOLATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, REPLAYED THE CHARGE THAT 26,000 AMERICANS WERE IN SOUTH VIETNAM, CLAIMED THAT THE DRV AND PRG HAD CONSISTENTLY ABIDED BY THE AGREEMENT AND NOTED PRG OPPOSITION TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST U.S. C-55 BRINGING WEAPONS TO SAIGON. A PRAVDA COMMENTARY BY FILIPPOV (MARCH 30) SPOKE OF OPPOSITION TO THIEU, OF CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIP IN SOUTH VIETNAM, AND OF THE FEELING THAT THE REGIME HAD NO FUTURE. ON CAMBODIA, SOVIET MEDIA HAVE REPORTED LON NOL'S DEPARTURE, PORTRAYING IT AS A SIGN OF DISSARRAY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 04546 031413Z

AND PANIC IN PHNOM PENH. BY CONTRAST TWO RECENT COMMENTARIES FROM HANOI (IZVESTIYA, MARCH 29; PRAVDA, APRIL 1) HAVE DESCRIBED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM IN A SETTING OF NORMALCY, THUS IMPLYING THAT NORTHVIETNAM IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING TO THE SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST.

STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW04546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750116-0241
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750485/aaaaczsf.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIETS ON INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PFOR, UR, VN, VS, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006